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## THE SETTLEMENT OF THE VALLEY\*

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BY CHARLES E. KEMPER, STAUNTON, VA.

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The Blue Ridge Range of mountains bound the Valley of Virginia on the east and southeast, and the boundries of the counties which lie at its base on the western side extend to the top of the mountains.

In 1608, Captain John Smith ascended the Rappahannock River on an exploring expedition and reached a point about 26 miles above the present Fredericksburg, Virginia. He certainly went far enough to see the Blue Ridge. On this expedition, he encountered a band of Indians and had a fight with them, and in the engagement captured one of them. Capt. Smith inquired of the Indian as to what lay beyond the mountain, to which the Indian replied that he did not know "because the woods were not burnt." Based upon these facts, the statement can be fairly and positively made that Capt. Smith and his party in 1608 were the first white men who saw the mountain tops of the present Clarke and Warren counties in the lower Valley of Virginia.

The statement of the Indian that the "woods were not burnt" beyond the mountains also indicate that the valley was then a forest country to a considerable extent, which was not the

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\* The chief purpose of this article is to give in salient outline the history of the settlement of the Valley of Virginia, with such information as the writer possesses concerning the early exploration of this section before its permanent settlement by the white race. Many additional details could be given, but lack of space forbids. The reader who cares to pursue the subject further will find in the series of articles entitled "The Early Westward Movement of Virginia, 1721-1734", by the writer, which appeared in volumes 12 and 13 of this magazine, much *minutiae* of detail not contained in this article. The effort has been made to present this narrative in such a way as to interest the reader without burdening the subject with too much detail.

C. E. K.

case when the first settlers located there. Much of the valley had been denuded of its timber by the Iroquois Indians in their wars with the native tribes and after they had conquered the Valley Indians in 1671-1674, they regularly each fall when the hunting season was over fired the woods and grass in order to keep the woods open and thus make it easier to pursue game.<sup>1</sup>

The first authentic notice of the valley of Virginia by the white man dates back to the year 1632. Samuel Champlain, the French explorer of the north and northwest part of New York, had a map engraved in Paris in that year which shows the colony of Virginia. These expeditions of Champlain were in 1606-1609, but his map bears the date given above. Champlain never visited Virginia in person and the Virginia section of his map was in all possibility based upon explorations made by the Jesuit missionaries who visited Jamestown, Virginia, some years prior to 1632 or by missionaries of that faith who accompanied war and hunting parties of the Iroquois Indians to the Valley of Virginia. The section of the map which shows the Valley of Virginia clearly delineates the country from the present Harpers Ferry, W. Virginia to the present Port Republic in Rockingham county, and in the upper valley to the North and James Rivers in Rockbridge county. The Potomac and the Shenandoah rivers are shown on the map, and there could be no doubt of the fact that the Valley of Virginia was visited, and to some extent explored by white men prior to the year 1632. Jesuit Missionaries settled among the Iroquois Indians shortly after Champlain's expedition and these Indians were then at war with the Catawba Indians of eastern North Carolina, and that was before the settlement of Jamestown in 1607.<sup>2</sup> One of the war trails of the Five Nations was through the Valley of Virginia and the probabilities are that the missionaries came with a war or hunting party from New York to the Valley.

In 1707, John Lederer, a German, explored the western

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<sup>1</sup> See Mooney, *Siouan Tribes of the East*, page 20; also *The Fauquier Historical Bulletin* No. 1, and Tyler's *Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, July number, 1920.

<sup>2</sup> See this Magazine, October number, 1921, for Champlain's map and some notes used therein.

portion of Virginia, and he gives an account which was generally accepted as descriptive of the Virginia valley, but his general narrative seems apocryphal and his statements should be accepted with some reserve.

In 1707, the Valley was visited by Louis Michell, a Swiss explorer, who came down from Lancaster county, Pa., and proceeded up the Valley certainly as far as the present Edinburg in the present Shenandoah county. His admirable map with some notes based thereon appeared in this magazine in the April number, 1921.

In 1716, Alexander Spotswood, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, visited the Valley with a party of 41 persons, composed of gentlemen, rangers, guides, and Indians. The evidence is clear that this expedition crossed the Blue Ridge, through Swift Run Gap and followed Elk Run down to the Shenandoah river. Spotswood crossed the Shenandoah at Conrad's Ford about three-quarters of a mile west of present Elkton, Virginia, in the present Rockingham county, Va., and halted there, but the rangers went further in the Valley.

Spotswood's romantic order, "The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe" was founded upon this expedition; and that he commemorated it in this manner is proved by the fact that at the Albany Conference, (1722) with the Iroquois Indians, he took from his breast a small Golden Horse Shoe and gave it to an Indian Chief, saying that when the Indians came to Virginia they should bring it with them and that this golden horseshoe would enable them to cross the mountain more easily, meaning that it would be a passport of protection to them in Eastern Virginia.<sup>3</sup>

In the year 1717, the valley of the southern boundary of Virginia was visited by white men and these facts prove that by the year last mentioned the northern end of Shenandoah Valley of Virginia was explored.<sup>4</sup>

As stated in "*Some Valley Notes*" which appeared in the October Number, 1921, of this magazine, there is some evidence which tends to show that a white settlement existed at

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<sup>3</sup> See *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York*. Albany, 1855, Vol. 5, p. 677.

<sup>4</sup> See this Magazine, July number, 1921.

the present Shepherdstown, West Virginia, as early as 1719, but the evidence is not conclusive, and Dr. Graham's account of this settlement must be accepted with reserve.

Before proceeding further, it is necessary to notice the causes which led to the settlement of the Virginia Valley. Events which occurred in the British Kingdom and upon the continent of Europe, far distant from Virginia, were the impelling causes which led to the settlement of the Valley.

The wars between France and the Germans, which commenced in 1684, started in the Rhine valley and continued with intermissions until 1709, and which resulted in the practical destruction of the Lower Palatinate, brought the German element first to Pennsylvania and then to the Virginia valley. The restrictive and unwise laws of the British Parliament, during the reign of William and Mary, Queen Anne and George I, with reference to the Scotch Presbyterians in the Province of Ulster, Ireland, brought them to America by the tens of thousands, chiefly to Pennsylvania in the north, and from that colony to the Valley of Virginia. Although they had always been intensely loyal to the House of Stuart, and then to William and Mary, Queen Anne and George I, their trade and commerce commenced to interfere with that of England proper and prohibitory tariff laws were passed, which practically destroyed their trade with England and Scotland.<sup>5</sup> This and other causes, not necessary to mention, led to the migration of the Ulster Scotch to America.

This brings the narrative to the pioneer settler of the Valley of Virginia. His name was Adam Müller, who was born in Schresheim,<sup>6</sup> Baden, Germany, Nov. 3, 1703; but his father, John Peter Müller lived in Lambsheim in the adjacent Palatinate and Adam Müller evidently grew to manhood in that place. In 1724, he came with his wife, Barbara, to America and first settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and in 1727 he removed to Virginia, and settled first on the Hawksbill Creek in

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<sup>5</sup> See for this subject generally *Macaulay's History of England*; also Mr. de Graffenreid's account of the founding of Newbern, N. C., recently published by the North Carolina Historical Commission.

<sup>6</sup> The facts relating to Adam Müller's birth-place and residence in Germany were obtained by the writer from the pastor of the Evangelical Protestant Church at Schresheim.

the present county of Page. In 1724, he purchased 820 acres of land on the Shenandoah river from Joseph Bloodsworth, which included the site of present Elkton, in the present county of Rockingham, Va., and he built his home at the Great Bear Lithia Spring, which was a part of his estate, and acquired other lands by purchase and patent; and at his death, owned a splendid estate of more than 1300 acres on the Shenandoah river. On March 13, 1742,<sup>7</sup> he was naturalized by Gov. Gooch and the certificate of his naturalization is still in existence, owned by his great-great-grand-daughter, Miss Elizabeth B. Miller, who lives at "Green Meadows" on a portion of his estate. His naturalization certificate states that Adam Müller was a native of the place mentioned above and had settled for 15 years prior to that date on the Shenandoah in the colony of Virginia. This gives the year 1727 as the year of his arrival in Virginia and fixes the date of the first settlement in the Valley of Virginia. Adam Müller died in 1783, aged 80 years and his son-in-law, Jacob Bear, qualified as his administrator. His signature both in German and English is of record in Augusta county, Virginia, and indicates a man of good common school education. This is a brief account of the man who was the first vidette of civilization in the Valley of Virginia as shown by authentic records. If any error exists in this statement, the error is due to the record itself.

In 1729, Jacob Stover, a native of Switzerland, visited the Shenandoah Valley and on June 5, 1730, obtained from the Virginia Council, two grants of land on the Shenandoah and its tributaries. The lower grant commenced about one mile below Bear Lithia Spring in the present Rockingham county and extended down the river to about the present Massanutten in present Page county. The upper grant commenced at the mouth of Cub Run in present Rockingham county and extended up the Shenandoah to the present Port Republic, and then up South River near the present Weyers Cave.<sup>8</sup>

The upper grant also included the Cub Run valley to the foot of the Peaked Mountain, near present Penn Laird, and

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<sup>7</sup> For Adam Müller's certificate of naturalization, see *William and Mary College Quarterly*, Vol. 9, p. 132.

<sup>8</sup> See this Magazine, Vol. 13, p. 120.

the Mill Creek valley to the present Hering estate on the Keezletown road one and one-half miles northeast of Cross Keys, and some of the finest farming land is in these two grants. In the year 1730, Adam Müller was joined by other settlers who came to Virginia from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Their names were Abram Strickler, Mathias Selzer, Phillip Lung (Long), Paul Lung (Long), John Rood (Rhodes), and Michael Kauffman. They purchased 4000 acres of the lower grant from Jacob Stover, and their homes were on and near the Shenandoah river from a point about a mile below Bear Lithia Spring in the present Rockingham county to the present Massanutten in Page county, Virginia. This locality took and retained its Indian name, Massanutten, and the evidence of the records gives to it precedence as the place of first settlement in the Valley of Virginia made by white men.\*

While the first settlers of the Valley were Germans and Scotch-Irish, people in eastern Virginia were among the first land prospectors in that section. In 1727, Robert Brooke, William Lynn and others petitioned the Virginia Council for 50,000 acres of land on the waters of the James and Cow Pasture River in the present counties of Rockbridge and Bath; and in 1720, Larkin Chew and others petitioned for five thousand acres of land on Happy Creek, in the present county of Warren, Virginia. Col. Robert Carter, of Lancaster county, Virginia, was among the early land prospectors in the Valley of Virginia and so was William Beverley. All these men lived east of the Blue Ridge, and William Beverley found this initial and date: "R. C., 1729", carved on a tree in the Winchester section. These were the initials of Col. Robert Carter and 1729 was the date of his visit to the Valley prospecting for land. In 1730 a grant of 50,112 acres of land was made to Landon and George Carter, sons of Col. Carter. This grant was in the present counties of Frederick, Clarke, and Warren, and lay chiefly on the northwestern side of the Shenandoah. In 1730, a large grant of land was made to Mann Page, Esquire, of Rosewell, Virginia, which lay chiefly in the present county

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\* See this Magazine, Vol. 13, pp. 120-1-2-3.

of Jefferson, W. Va., and included the present site of Harpers Ferry.<sup>10</sup>

In the fall of 1731, Jost Hite, a native of Strasburg, Germany, brought a colony of Germans to the Valley which settled at and near the present Winchester. Prior to his removal to Virginia, Hite was a resident of Philadelphia county, Pennsylvania, and by the year 1734, fifty-four families were living in the vicinity of present Winchester.

In 1734-1735 a colony of Friends or Quakers also settled in the present Frederick county, then Orange, and the lower valley was in a sense a settled country. Waddell and other annalists of Augusta county, state that John Lewis, the pioneer, who settled in Augusta county, came in 1732, but they offer no evidence of the fact except tradition. John Lewis first appeared in Virginia in 1737 when the council voted a supply of ammunition for defence against the Indians, and he was then a Captain of Militia in Orange county, of which Augusta county was then a part.

In 1736, Sir John Randolph, and others obtained a grant of 118,491 acres of land, including the present site of Staunton, and surrounding county and in 1739, Benjamin Borden obtained a grant of 99,291 acres of land which lay in the southwestern portion of present Augusta and in present Rockbridge counties. The Randolph grant was soon conveyed to William Beverley,<sup>11</sup> of Essex county, Virginia, and he and Borden went actively to work to locate settlers upon their land. They worked in Lancaster, Chester and adjoining counties in the eastern part of Pennsylvania through agents and by posting circulars descriptive of the unsettled Valley.

The tide of Scotch-Irish immigration to the Valley commenced in 1738 and was at its height from 1740 to 1745. They came chiefly from Chester, Lancaster, and adjacent counties in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania, and the country around Staunton was well settled by the year 1745.

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<sup>10</sup> See this Magazine, Vol. 13, p. 117.

<sup>11</sup> The Beverley Manor grant was made August 12, 1736, to Sir John Randolph, John Robertson, and Richard Randolph. It contained 118,491 acres. William Russell and Robert Brooke then purchased the Randolph and Robertson interests, which were three-fourths of the grant and then in turn conveyed their interests to William Beverley.



Augusta and Rockbridge was settled almost entirely by the Scotch-Irish, and until 1750 the present county of Rockingham had a majority of the same race. They came on horse-back, and their effects were brought on pack-horses.

These are the salient facts in the history of the Valley of Virginia to the year 1745. Much more could be added, but these details have been published and therefore, this article is not burdened with them.

Frederick county was organized in 1743 and Augusta in 1745, and until 1769, when Botetourt was created they were the only counties in the Valley. Until 1755 the dividing line between them was the Narrow Passage Creek in present Shenandoah county, Virginia, but in that year the line was changed and the old Fairfax line, which crosses the main valley about two miles southwest of New Market, became the county line.

The records of Augusta county show that nearly all the German and Scotch-Irish who settled in the Virginia valley, had been taught trades, as was common in the British Islands and on the continent of Europe at that period. They were millers, wagon-makers, cabinet-makers, weavers, auctioneers, brick-layers, and in fact, all the then existing trades were found among them.

The pioneers of the Valley of Virginia were sincerely Christian people, the Scotch-Irish were Presbyterians; the Germans were German Reformed and Lutherans in their church affiliations. The Opequon church in present Frederick county, Virginia, was the first Presbyterian congregation in the Valley. In 1736, the Rev. Mr. Williams was the pastor of this church, but he had difficulties with his congregation in 1738 and he does not appear after that date as a minister. The records of Orange county, Virginia, indicate he was more a trader or merchant than a preacher. Rev. John Craig was the first regularly settled minister in the Valley. He was born in county Armagh, Ireland, in 1709; educated at the University of Edinburg, Scotland, from which he graduated with the degree of Master of Arts. He came to America in 1736 and settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. In 1740, Donegal Presbytery in that colony directed him to accept a call from the

Presbyterians in the upper valley of Virginia. He came in the fall of 1740 and founded Augusta church, about 8 miles north-east of Staunton. In 1741 he organized the Tinkling Spring congregation, near Fishersville, Virginia, and continued to serve as pastor of that church until 1766 when he retired from that pastorate, but continued to serve Augusta church until his death in 1774. The Rev. John Hindman, born in Londonderry, Ireland, came to America in 1739, and settled in Chester county, Pennsylvania. In 1742, he was sent by the Donegal Presbytery to the Valley and he preached at various places. In 1745, he organized the Peaked Mountain Church (now Massanutten Church) near Cross Keys in the present Rockingham, and was its first pastor. This is the oldest of all the churches in that county. In the fall of 1746, Mr. Hindman went to London, England, and was there ordained as a Priest of the Established Church. On April 5, 1747, he was accepted as the first rector of Augusta parish. He continued to live with his Presbyterian friends in the present Rockingham county and died at the residence of John Stevenson, in October, 1748. He was a "racing parson" and owned at his death twenty-nine horses and colts, and a "Jockey coat".<sup>12</sup> On the Stevenson place, now owned by the heirs of Dr. E. A. Hering, there is a level stretch of land which has been called from time out of mind "the race track" and there, no doubt, Mr. Hindman won his racing victories and suffered his defeats.<sup>13</sup> Rev. Alexander Miller, a native of the Parish of Ardstraw, Ireland, succeeded Mr. Hindman as pastor of Peaked Mountain and served until 1766, when he was deposed from the ministry for cause by Hanover Presbytery. In 1769, Rev. Thomas Jackson was installed as pastor of the Peaked Mountain church and continued to serve until his death in 1773. In 1747, Rev. John Brown became pastor of the Timber Ridge church in the present county of Rockbridge, and in 1752, Rev. Alex. Craighead came and took charge of several places of worship in the present

<sup>12</sup> See *The Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society*, March number, 1921, for the account of the Peaked Mountain Church.

<sup>13</sup> The appraisement of Rev. John Hindman's estate, Nov. 29, 1749, shows he owned twenty-seven horses and colts, ministerial gowns, sermon books, a jockey coat, and a pair of leather breeches. Will Book 1, page 199.

county of Bath. These were the first regularly settled ministers in the upper valley of Virginia.

The Lutherans had no regular pastor among them until 1758, when the Rev. Lawrence Wartman came from Lancaster, Pa., and served at the Peaked Mountain Lutheran Church, McGaheyville, Virginia, for a short time and then removed to South Carolina.

The first settled pastor of the German Reformed Church in the entire valley was Rev. Phillip Charles Van Gemunden. He came in the fall of 1762 and bought a farm on Fort Run in the vicinity of present Timberville, in the present Rockingham county. He served as pastor of Raiders' church near that place, and also the congregation at McGaheyville. He died in 1764 and his will is recorded at Staunton.

These were the first pioneer ministers regularly settled in the Virginia Valley and their labors among the early settlers entitle them to this mention.

By the year 1750, the Valley from Harpers Ferry to Roanoke was a settled pioneer country and settlers were still coming, chiefly from Pennsylvania, and it was a land of busy endeavor. They were building houses and barns; opening roads; building mills and churches; and establishing schools to give their children at least a common school education. The map which appears in the July number of this magazine shows the first wagon road in the Valley. In 1736 it crossed the Potomac at Williamsport, Md., and came up the valley following in the main the line of the present Valley Turnpike. The Court Orders of Augusta County show that the road leading to Staunton from Pennsylvania was called the "King's Highway" and the "Great Road," while Thomas Lewis,<sup>4</sup> the County Surveyor of Augusta county refers to it as "the road to Frederick" (Winchester).

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<sup>4</sup>One of the most interesting documents in the records of Augusta county, Virginia, is the entry book of Thomas Lewis, County Surveyor from 1744-1748, now in the office of the present County Surveyor, Mr. E. E. McCutchan, to whom the writer is much indebted for assistance and many courtesies. This record contains about 320 pages, and the entries show the locality of nearly all the older families in the upper valley, and it is a mine of information with reference to early names of the rivers, creeks, and other natural objects. The location of some of the forts in the French and Indian War are shown, and deposits of coal and iron, stone quarries are also located.

This road left the line of the present Valley Turnpike at Mt. Sidney, Augusta county, Virginia, and, crossing the North river at Rockland Mills, passed through the villages of Cross Keys, Keezletown, and united with the "King's Highway" near present Lacey Springs, in the present county of Rockingham, Virginia. There was also "a Pennsylvania road" and "an Irish Path" in Augusta and Rockingham, and a "Pennsylvania Ford" just below Mt. Meridian in Augusta county, Virginia, gives an echo to this day of the fact that the settlers in that locality came from Pennsylvania.

William Wright is the earliest schoolmaster who appears upon the records of Augusta county, Virginia. He was teaching on Linville Creek in 1743. Samuel Vance comes next, teaching in Augusta county in 1744. In 1747, Robert Alexander founded a classical school near Greenville, Augusta county, which was the genesis of present Washington and Lee University at Lexington. Rev. John Craig was one of the earliest teachers in Augusta, and James Anderson founded the Anderson school prior to 1755 and was still teaching it in 1774-1775-1776. The records show that prior to 1765, there were certainly thirteen English schools and four German schools in the counties of Augusta, Rockbridge, and Rockingham, and the autograph signatures of many pupils of these schools show that they received good training.

The pioneer settlers of the valley at first traded almost entirely at New Castle and Delaware, at Lancaster and Warwick in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Then they shifted to Williamsburg, Falmouth and Fredericksburg, Virginia, and by the year 1765, Richmond had become their principal trading place.

Their chief products for market were butter, cheese, ginseng, hemp, skins and furs,<sup>15</sup> and their merchants bought liberally of the best English manufactures upon the market.

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<sup>15</sup> Early suit records of Augusta county, Virginia, show that wolves, deer, and elks abounded in the valley, also the beaver, and the black fox, and for many years, the skins and furs of these animals was the source of a considerable revenue. This continued until after the Revolution, and the valley was visited regularly by traders from Pennsylvania who came to purchase skins and furs. The fact that a buffalo hide was worth only 33 1-3c in 1739, shows how plentiful the buffalo abounded in the valley. As to the buffalo, see inventory of James Coburn's estate in 1749, Augusta County Records, Will Book 1.

In 1763, the women in the valley were wearing silks, velvets, satin, shalloons, taffeta, for Sunday clothes, and their every-day dresses were made of gingham and calico. For similar occasions, the men wore black, blue, brown and scarlet broadcloth, and for daily wear, the German and English serges.<sup>17</sup>

It was the custom of the early settlers to wear caps in the summer and silk caps and handkerchiefs were in common vogue in the Valley in 1765. The first homes were cabins built of logs, after the "Virginia manner of building" generally 16 x 20' in dimensions. But after 1745, they commenced to build good and comfortable homes, generally of logs, but weatherboarded, ceiled, and plastered. Many of the old homes were of considerable dimensions. The writer was born in the old Stevenson house which has been mentioned as Mr. Hindman's place of residence. The main house was built prior to 1756 and stood until 1870. It was a good type of the best class of Valley houses built prior to 1756. This house was about 80' long; 2 stories high; 20 feet wide; one story was built of heart pine logs, weatherboarded, ceiled, and plastered; with two stone chimneys—a pleasant and comfortable home in winter and summer. The improvement cabin stood immediately in the rear of the main house, and was a log structure about 40 feet square, not weatherboarded; with an immense stone chimney and fire place, equipped with hooks, pots, and cranes; and the writer well remembers that the first cook stove was brought into this house in the year 1867. The reader will please pardon these somewhat personal historical statements, but it is the best and truest knowledge in his possession, relative to the type of permanent Valley homes built by the larger pioneer land owners.

The principal crops raised in the valley preceding the year 1765 were wheat, corn, rye, barley, oats, flax, and some cotton was raised as early as 1747. In the year 1747, Thomas Harris owned a cotton patch on Linville's Creek in the present Rock-

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<sup>17</sup> The inventory of James Leister a Staunton merchant, recorded May 13, 1761, in the Clerk's Office of Augusta county, Will Book 3, pp. 150-154, shows practically every article of merchandise used by the pioneer at that period, and the prevailing prices.

ingham county, Virginia. They had horses and cattle in large numbers and the cattle were driven to southeastern Pennsylvania for sale. Many of the horses were allowed to run wild in the woods and sometimes days were spent in hunting for them. Wheat brought 50c. a bushel, corn 16 2/3c. a bushel; stock cattle generally sold at \$10.00 a head and horses sold at about \$40.00. These were the average prices. By the year 1765, the valley was settled country, although much public land still remained ungranted.<sup>18</sup>

The pioneers of the valley lived well and comfortably after the year 1745. They used liquors freely, and Madeira wine was consumed in large quantities, and still the records do not indicate that drunkenness prevailed to any great extent. They were quite litigious and the original suit records in the Clerk's office of Augusta county, Virginia, show in many instances the place of residence before coming to Virginia.<sup>19</sup> The Allen and Anderson families of Augusta county, Va., came either from Lancaster or Chester county, Pennsylvania, and so did the Bell and Curry families. The Craig family came from Kennet Square, Chester county, Pa., and the Caldwell family came from Ballibagan, Londonderry county, Ireland, to Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and then to Augusta county, Virginia.

The Francisco family came from Lancaster county, Pa., and the McClures from Bucks county, Pa. The Francis family came from Chester county, Pa. The McCues came from Lancaster, Pa., and the Laids either from Lancaster or Chester in that colony. The Crawford family came from Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania, and so did the Alexanders and Pattersons. This list could be much extended and the facts stated have been gathered from the old suit records of Augusta county, Virginia.

The Scotch-Irish were pre-eminently dominant in Augusta, Rockbridge, and the present county of Rockingham until 1750

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<sup>18</sup> See Survey Book 1, page 42, Augusta county, Virginia, records, which shows a survey of 120 acres for Thomas Harris, in which Harris' cotton patch is mentioned, dated March 29, 1750. Will Book 1, page 177, Augusta county, Virginia records.

<sup>19</sup> The original land records on file in the office of the County Clerk of Augusta county, Virginia, show the facts stated above. The papers can be found without much difficulty by consulting the indexes of the county order books.

when the Germans gained ascendancy in the latter county. Page and Shenandoah were essentially German colonies and these facts were true in part of Frederick and Berkley. In Clark, Warren and Jefferson, the English element were in majority. This tells in salient outline, the history of the settlement of the valley of Virginia and something of pioneer life, as it existed there prior to 1765. The descendants of Valley pioneers are to be found all over the south and west, especially in South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio. They were a brave race and bore their part worthily in the French and Indian War. In the War of the Revolution, the Valley men served in large numbers in the regular and militia service, and took part in nearly all the principal engagements fought in the north and south, and they were at Yorktown in 1781 in full force. Nearly every family came from good, sound stock. They brought with them their pride of race and it is to their credit that they preserve it to this date.